REMARKS

Claim 6 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and claims 1-5, 7-8, and 10-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over various cited articles. In an effort to expeditiously move application to allowance, the Applicants have rewritten objected-to claim 6 in independent form. This amendment to claim 6 was done as a matter of formality and not to overcome a cited reference. That is, claim 6 remains exactly as it was originally presented, except in independent form.

Furthermore, Applicants have either cancelled or amended all of the rejected claims thereby rendering said rejections moot. Nevertheless, the Applicants expressly reserve the right to present cancelled subject matter in one or more continuation and/or divisional applications.

It may be noted that there was no discussion of claims 9, 17, and 18. Nevertheless, in the interests of expediting prosecution, the Applicants have also amended/cancelled these claims.

CONCLUSION

Claims 2-4 and 6-10 remain currently pending. In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Early issuance of Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge shortages or credit overpayments to Deposit Account No. 500393.

Respectfully submitted,
Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt, P.C.

Dated: 8/5/05

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